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PARTICIPANTS: Jose Luis Dicenta, Spanish Consul, Buenos Aires  
 Ignacio Masferrer, Spanish Consul, Buenos Aires  
 William H. Hallman Political Counselor,  
 American Embassy, Buenos Aires

DATE &amp; PLACE: August 9, 1979; Spanish Consulate in Buenos Aires

SUBJECT : Clandestine Detention Centers

In an effort to update and roundup all that the Embassy knows about clandestine detention facilities I visited my Spanish colleagues to ask whether they might have any information to add about a facility which was reported by a Spanish dual national to be located near the Avenida General Paz. In fact they did have further information: Subsequent to an Embassy officer's writing a memorandum of conversation (February 21, 1979; prepared by F. A. Harris) ~~yet~~ another woman prisoner <sup>had</sup> been allowed to leave the ~~place~~ <sup>detention center described</sup> and ~~has~~ given an interview with both Spanish and French magazines ~~describing something~~ about it. Neither of the Spanish consuls had seen the report but both had heard from colleagues in Madrid said it was written by a woman named Iglesias and that she describes at some length the torture she alleges she underwent at the detention center. She described, for example, a ~~torture~~ <sup>torturer</sup> known as "el Frances" who was the most vicious of the lot and who at one point ripped off his mask and said to her "Take a good look at my face. I have no fear that you will ever be able to identify me, because you will never leave this place alive." Ms. Iglesias did not in her articles, however, say how many people might have been held at the detention center when she was there.

It happens that Mr. Masferrer visited with the subject of this Embassy's February 21 memorandum of conversation, when he

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was in Madrid recently. The person's name is Gonzalo Santos, and she is presently living somewhere near Madrid. A further discussion with Ms. Gonzalo Santos about the number of prisoners that might have been held revealed that she may not have been so positive after all. She said that her duties as washer woman to the group had made her believe that there were a great many people involved, but that in fact perhaps 80 was about correct. On the other hand, there could have been as many as 150, or as few as 35. She described to Masferrer how single person cells existed along a corridor, of how when she had been a cell area herself she was usually blindfolded, and how very hard it was to get any kind of realistic number of prisoners.

(The Spanish Consuls clarified one point: Ms. Gonzalo Santos's two brothers, who were Peronist activists, in fact, ~~who~~ had both left Argentina before her arrest and therefore the possibility of reprisals is <sup>small, unlike what</sup> ~~not as great as~~ we had originally believed. Although Ms. Gonzalo Santos has her parents and one brother still here, none of them have been threatened or received visits by the police and she is not, apparently, unduly concerned that they may be in trouble.) Neither of the Spanish Consuls was able to speculate whether this facility might still be in operation. They described it as being located <sup>near</sup> ~~on~~ the General Paz <sup>circumferential</sup> Road near the point where General Riccherri Highway takes off for Ezeiza. With regard to other detention centers which they had mentioned, Dicenta and Masferrer mentioned only the one located at 8000 Rivadavia. This was one we have been told about also by several sources. <sup>What is</sup> ~~What~~ is <sup>uncertain</sup> ~~now~~ is whether that facility still exists.

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